

Volume 11, No. 15 • June 11, 2004

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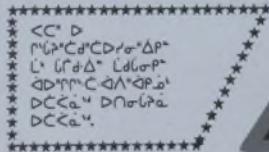
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- Family picnic
- Animation for the whole family
- Cultural site

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editorial

National Aboriginal Day

Will Nicholls

It all started in 1982 when the National Indian Brotherhood wanted June 21 as a National Aboriginal Solidarity Day. The reason for this day is it falls on summer solstice. It's pretty cool that we get the longest day out of the year to celebrate our heritage. But National Aboriginal Day didn't officially start in 1982. It went through some growing pains. But Quebec led the way. In 1990 the province recognized June 21 as a day to celebrate Aboriginal culture.

Later the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, along with Elijah Harper (who chaired the Sacred Assembly), recommended June 21 in 1995. It wasn't until 1996 that the day became official throughout Canada by a declaration by then Governor-General Romeo LeBlanc.

Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson said: "It is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate our respect and admiration for First Nations, for Inuit, for Métis — for the past, the present and the future."

Unfortunately, it is one of the most underfunded of the holidays that celebrate Canada's rich heritage. St. Jean Baptiste is a huge celebration, as is Canada Day.

But this year's National Aboriginal Day is something special. It is the last year of the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples.

When the decade was created the Aboriginal People got a permanent forum at the United Nation, the body that announced our decade back in December 1994. "The Permanent Forum," said Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, "promises to give indigenous peoples



a unique voice within the United Nations system, commensurate with the unique problems which many indigenous people still face, but also with the unique contribution they make to the human rights dialogue."

That's quite a mouthful but it meant Aboriginal Peoples would finally have some way to talk at the international level. We've come quite a way from the days when it was illegal for Aboriginal people in Canada to fundraise for court cases.

The United Nations General Assembly also decided that in 1994, the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, shall be observed on August 9 of every year.

So as you can see we not only have a day in Canada but an International day also along with the last year of our decade.

The World Bank recently came to James Bay. After talking to the Crees, Quebec and Hydro-Quebec they came to some conclusions: The Cree are in control of their territory; the Cree must be included in all aspects of natural resource development in their territory: assessment, investigation, execution, and benefit; the Cree must be given the resources and opportunities to participate in a meaningful manner; and the Cree are not going anywhere.

Such thoughts would have been unthinkable to the Euro-centric thinking of even 30 years ago. It is not only thought but is understood. Now that's something to celebrate.

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on the cover

Khayden Otter's 3rd Birthday Party

Photo: Tiffany Deer
Design: M. Laviolette



Where have all the hunters gone?

By Sonny Orr

The geese approached the small pond, and everything was silent. They swooped in gracefully and gave the complementary thankful honk, before landing on the calm water. Sound familiar? Yes, it's Stanley Cup fever again and all sane hunters have abandoned their blinds in favour of rooting for the sun-drenched hockey players versus the white, cold Calgarians. The beer flows freely in packed sports bars and the cheers drown out the boos. Yes, another check into the walls and puck in the cheek. The country roars with abandon, yes, us Canadians do roar, you know? And the goalie, now either the most hated man or crowd favourite, depending on whose ice the whetted blades tear up into Zamboni fodder, blocks another shot. I tear up my hockey pool ticket in tears.

The series tied two to two, it's anyone's guess and while sports bar fans watch the 10-foot wide silver screen slowly draw up into a roll, the ticket sales soar into scalper heaven in Calgary. It's a 50-50 chance to sip champagne out of the sacred Cup for the truly hardcore professionals whose images are firmly being engraved into trading cards while the fans have nothing but hockey on their minds and solidarity with the Precambrian shield we proudly call Canada. Meanwhile, 3,000 miles due east, the geese snooze blissfully while ecstatic cheering splits the otherwise calm peace of the half-melted white north. It's savvy, modern technology, brought to your favourite goose camp, via direct to home satellite in every cabin in the north, with the muted complementary hum of the portable generator.

Yes, we can have the best of both worlds, hockey and the great outdoors all rolled into one fine way to spend your day while on goose break. This is what I call heaven on earth.

I marvel at what we can do with today's inventions. If I had my way, I'd occupy my trap line in relative luxury and have two-way high speed internet to boot. Stock trading and selling my thoughts for profit could subsist and pay for my monthly charter of supplies, landing on my own landing strip. Sound far fetched? Heck, the CTA do it all the time. (except for maybe the stock exchange, I thought of that myself). Satellite phones, TVs VCRs, camcorders, electric ovens, etc, have been seamlessly integrated into our adaptive culture and overnight, in one generation, was brought to the inner sanctum of Cree culture, the annual spring goose hunt. We still prefer outhouses, though. Now, if only BINGO could reach the camps (egad, what am I saying?).

I still dream that dream, living off the land in my own mansion carved out of the land, using rocks and logs, chalet style, glistening with solar panels, wind generators, micro mini hydro stream powered energy. You know, no need to use petroleum products, always silent and unobtrusive to the environment. Oh yeah, I forgot the jacuzzi, the only way to sooth tired muscles after a long hard day in the blind. One day, we will all have to live like that.



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Crees ready to establish national police force

A new Cree Nation police force could be taking its oath of service in 2005 to finally bring policing in all of Eeyou Istchee under one command. It's the culmination of a long-awaited implementation of section 19 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and new policing provisions in the Paix des Braves.

The political significance of a new, national force could be immense. "Policing is an icon, a symbol of sovereignty and control over your territory," said Bill Namagoose, Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees (GCC).

Under a new agreement, which is still in the planning stages, the GCC would get more control over provincial highways that run in and around Cree communities. Quebec is ready to sign the deal, but up until this point, negotiations with Canada have been moving at a snail's pace. Both Canada and Quebec are responsible for Cree Nation policing under the JBNQA.

When the Paix des Braves was signed between Quebec and the Crees Feb. 2, 2002, the Cree were allotted an extra eight constables to patrol the nine communities. The number of police officers in Eeyou Istchee went from 47 to 55.

"This goes back to section 19 of the JBNQA," said Namagoose. "There were supposed to be Cree units of the Quebec police force. We couldn't agree what that meant. Quebec wanted them to be hired by the Sûreté du Québec and be separate from the local community police. Canada said we couldn't have both, so we went with local policing and the Cree unit issue was left outstanding."

The GCC still feels they are entitled to these "Cree units," but will give them up in exchange for a Cree Nation police force, which would fall under Cree control instead of the SQ. "Instead of having nine separate police forces, we'd have one," said Namagoose.

It's hoped that through negotiation that the new force will have a much larger area to cover and full jurisdiction over that area. This includes highways and other places not already patrolled by the SQ.

The new agreement would also ensure better, more enhanced training for the new officers and consistent directives for veteran officers. They would also have new uniforms. Showing up to police a public event in nine different uniforms doesn't look very professional, Namagoose remarked.

The annual budget for policing would increase by \$1.3 million when the new agreement is signed, up to \$8.7 million. Those figures would include funding for an additional 10 police officers.

Some of the ideas floating around for those officers and their duties include: an inland captain and a coastal captain, a police director and a police commission. There would also be a major crimes unit, and a vic-

tim assistance program, as well as a public relations officer. None of these ideas are set in stone as the logistics have yet to be negotiated, said Namagoose.

They will also look at the possibility of a 911 service for all of Eeyou Istchee.

"The best part about an agreement like this is the young police officers can climb the ladder to advance their careers. Right now they can't do that," said Namagoose. "Also, some police officers feel uncomfortable that they have to patrol their cousins. This way an officer from Nemaska would get a chance to patrol in a bigger town like Mistissini," he said.

The Grand Council will be informing the people over the next few months as to what they can expect with a Cree Nation Police Force and what changes will be made that will affect them.

The current policing agreement expires March 31, 2005.



A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ♦♦♦

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The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay

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- Learn how to swim

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Nemaska woman closer to lung transplant

They say good things come to those who wait. For Maggie Minister that statement rings ever so true, even if it has been five long years.

Maggie finally received the news she's been waiting for so anxiously. She has been put on the waiting list for a new set of lungs.

The operation is called a bilateral lung transplant and is very dangerous. First, new lungs have to be found that would suit Maggie's body and system. Then there is a "24-hour critical period" where doctors find out if her body accepts or rejects the new lungs. After

that Maggie would stay at the Notre Dame Hospital for three weeks and be housed at the House of Transplants for an additional six weeks. Both facilities are in Montreal.

One encouraging sign is the fact that the doctors have given Maggie a "three-month head start." In other words, it's like she has been on the waiting list for three months already.

Maggie will be equipped with a pager and will have two hours when the pager goes off to notify friends and family and make her way to the hospital for the operation.

She said she is going to spend the summer in Nemaska and then return to Montreal to await the operation.

Maggie could be on the waiting list for a year or more.

The Fest is back

Once again, Terres en vue or Lands in Sight is gearing up for another First People's Festival. This year will be the 14th time they have turned the assimilation tables around. From June 10-21 there will be Native directors showing their latest films and documentaries, Native dancers on the streets of Montreal and Native musicians. The place to be will be Lion d'Or in Montreal June 9. There you will be entertained with some of the hottest musicians around. Many go every year and it never fails to outdo the last year. It just keeps getting better. The crowds keep getting bigger too.

Part of this year's attractions include filling up Emilie-Gamelin Park (near Berri-UQAM metro) with Aboriginal artists and crafts people. You get to see dancers from all over the Americas. Some of the craftspeople show how to make traditional tools and clothing. You can see baskets woven before your eyes, hides tanned and necklaces made.

This year the Whapmagoostui Art Factory will be returning to sell their creations. So come on out and support the next generations of Cree artists. Who knows, what you buy today may

be worth big bucks in the future. If not, you still have a piece of Cree pottery to enjoy. The Whapmagoostui Art Factory is just one of the strong contributions made by Aboriginal Youth to this Festival.

Listen to the story-tellers who weave a tapestry of nearly forgotten legends transporting you into the past. Just sit back and enjoy a slice of Aboriginal life in the middle of Montreal.

It truly has something for the entire family. Hope to see you all there.



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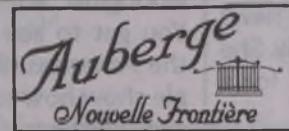
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Para-skiing: as easy as flying a kite

Was it a bird, a plane, superman with large wings? Nope, those things you may have seen in the sky last April around Chisasibi, Wemindji or Waskaganish were para-skiing kites, otherwise known as powerkites. A group of 12 skiers including Waskaganish's own Aaron Blackned completed the trip that began in Chisasibi and ended three days later in Wemindji.

Event organizer Pierre Dunnigan says that although the sport is mainly a hobby for him, there were other reasons for doing the trip. "We had two major goals, one was to visit the community and the school, to get introduced to the kids. We did a two-part presentation: building kites with recycled paper and string; the second part was to show them the actual kites that we were using, the powerkites. We have them outside and they fly their own kites and then we show them ours. They can try ours, they will wait in line for an hour to have the chance and they love it. Then (the second goal) we wanted was to do some long distance kiting along the bay, to be able to stop where ever we wanted."

One of their other goals was to have a local student with them. There is a type of powerkite that is relatively easy to master, it can be done in a one-day training period. This allows newcomers to make a long trip like this. Aaron Blackned was sitting in his secondary 3 class when the principal told them about the opportunity to do something really challenging. Blackned was the first to put up his hand and thus was chosen to go.

He confirmed that it was indeed a challenge, but that it was like flying a kite. "It was hard on the ice," he said, "hard to keep the kite in the air, hard to keep myself on the ground for the first couple of days, but then I got a hang of it."

Blackned liked it so much that he may take a trip to Montreal this summer to visit the kite factory.

As for Dunnigan, he is already planning another trip to James Bay next year. Photos and information on para-skiing kites can be found at www.kitezone.ca.

ÉLMS Art Expedition 2004

Attention Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome aboard Artcreebec destination Expedition 2004, the École Luke Mettawesekum School Visual Arts Show. Our trip will consist of many stopovers, from Kindergarten to secondary 5. We will be flying at an altitude of many ideas. Please fasten your seatbelt and keep your eyes open. We are now ready for takeoff.

On your right you can see the colourful cut-and-paste crafts generated by the Kindergarten. If you pay close attention to detail, you will see pictures representing scenes from both the old and the new Nemaska. Scenery that is composed of an elegant balance somewhere between rough

fingers and fine ideas laid out in a unique way.

A little further on your left, you will be able to distinguish "meegwen" painting, a technique which uses feathers as paintbrushes. Should you look closer, colourful roosters will appear, next to the splash paint art created by elementary students. Wow! We just flew over the geese and yellow ducks swimming not too far from the silk paper flowers in vases.

We are now approaching a zone of major turbulence. Don't worry, what you see are not really monsters, but rather masks. These were made using strips of plaster applied to students' faces, a process which requires trust, timing and patience. After the cast dries, the juices of creativity get going. Will it be this or that colour? What if they added a couple strings or beads or beaver hide? Look at that beautiful pattern! See those feathers? Pure genius in tones ranging from golden to colours never seen before.

In about one minute you will witness pictograms dating back to 2003-2004. A brand new technology has been mastered by the students: digital

continued on page 21



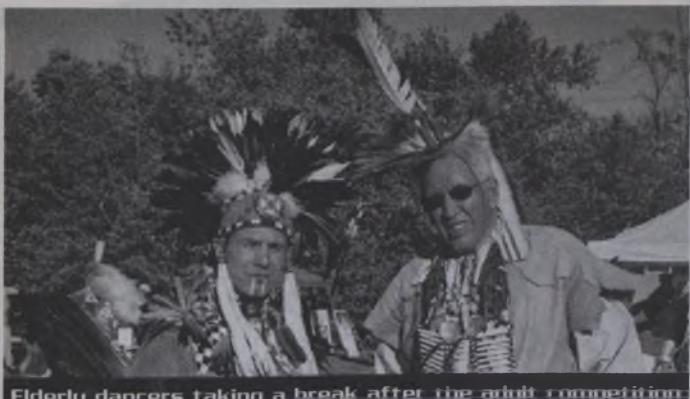
Art students putting on a new face



THE 28TH ANNUAL *Odawa Pow Wow*

By **NORMAN FIREMAN**

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre held their 28th annual pow wow in Nepean, Ontario, May 28-30. Pow wow is a time for people to gather and celebrate mother nature for all her wonderful blessings. It's a time for everyone to get together, relax and enjoy themselves. It's also a time to renew old friendships or make new ones.



Elderly dancers taking a break after the adult competition.

It was a beautiful day to start off with until the early evening when the temperature went down suddenly, and I was forced to buy a sweater to keep warm from the chilly winds.

I arrived at the powwow early hoping to taste some good bush food, only to find out the food vendors were just setting up

their gear, and meals were not to be served until around later that evening. I found out I wouldn't be having my moose burger until Saturday the next day so I settled for a buffalo burger instead.

There were five food vendors serving everything from Indian tacos to moose and buffalo burgers, everyone was lining up for the

blueberry-topped Ojibway desserts. There were always line ups until sun-down, and the next day I was up early because

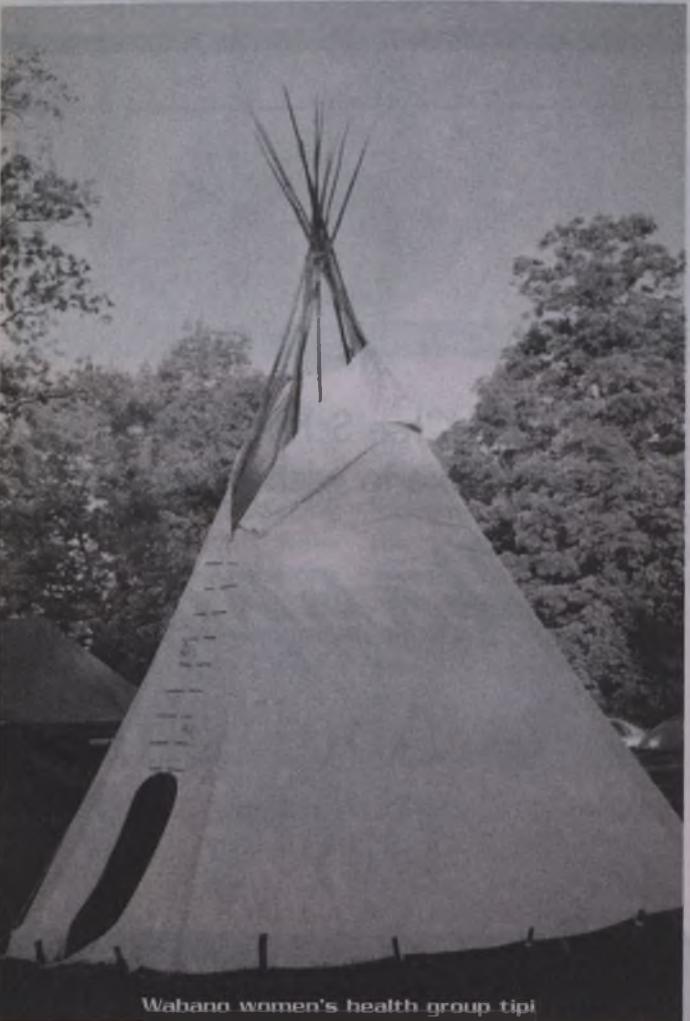
I guess that's what Elijah Harper was talking about later that day. He said he was happy the powwow is getting



Wasaskun drummers from Waswanipi

Saturday is usually a good day for a powwow. After I got a lift from the friendship centre shuttle bus to the powwow site that morning, the first thing I noticed

bigger every year, it's not only important for native people but that we should reach out to other communities and to the world, that's what powwows are



Wabano women's health group tipi



Two young dancers warming up for the fancy boys competition

were two non-natives who got on at the same time offering their services as volunteers.

all about. There were more than a 100 registered dancers from all over the U.S. and Canada and prob-



Young hoop dancer showing off his dancing skills



The Council and staff of the Cree nation of Eastmain wish the people of Iyiyuuuschii and Aboriginal people everywhere a

Happy National Aboriginal Day!

**Congratulations
to all 2004 Graduates.**



*We would like
to acknowledge your
hard work and
perseverance.*

Continued Success in the future!



*Let's
Celebrate!*

our Heritage, Culture
and History on this
National Aboriginal Day



The Cree School Board
would like to wish everyone a

**Happy
Aboriginal
Day!**





Judges select dancers after traditional dance

ably close to 10 drum groups. Wasaskun from the Waswanipi Drum group was also present, as were the Bear Creek drummers.

The first grand entry was right at noon followed

tot exhibition for kids 1-6 years old. Competitions were just spectacular and the jingle dress dancers were just awesome to watch. They were dancing around like butterflies in the arena.



Jingle dress dancers during the Inter-tribal

by the Inter-Tribal dancing. Around 3 pm the Children's Exhibition and Competition Dancing began. The crowds were especially enjoying the tiny

The most enjoyed by the spectators was the hoop dancing. The skill and movement performed by the dancers was very graceful, there were a lot

of photographs taken at this time. The regalia came in so many different colours, like a rainbow.

actor, attended the Pow wow and was willing to give his opinion. "The Pow wow is the heart of our nation



Young man dancer during the Inter-tribal

On Sunday, the women's jingle dancers were showing off their dancing skills followed by the men's grass dancers. The women's fancy shawl dance was beautiful to watch. The competition dance-off came later.

Adam Beach, the Native

and that we should strive to make it better all the time," Beach said.

It was a great Pow wow, and at the grand exit everyone said bye to each other. The next Pow wow will be July 9- 11 in Kahnawake Mohawk Territory.



Families came down from Chisasibi to enjoy the event



Young man enjoying the pow wow



CREE NATION OF WEMINDJI

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to all Graduates in the Cree Community

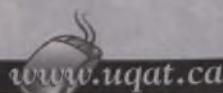


Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Best wishes
for National
Aboriginal Day

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ԾԱՇ ԾՐՄԵՐ.Ճ

UQAT welcomes new First Nations students for Fall 2004



Post Secondary Student Services



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Please take special note of our upcoming Summer hours for the Montreal and Gatineau/Hull offices:

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* effective from June 28, 2004 to
September 3, 2004



JUNE 21 IS NATIONAL INDIAN SOLIDARITY DAY.



On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and AFN Regional Chiefs, I congratulate First Nations leaders and citizens on their efforts and accomplishments in strengthening our communities.

The AFN is committed to promoting the political, economic and social advancement of our peoples. Working together we can achieve our goals!

Phil Fontaine
National Chief

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

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Timber



First, a fire devastated trapline M-37. Then, alleges the Grand Council of the Crees, the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks, and two forestry companies finished the job.

The results are that for three or more generations the Gunner family of Mistissini will not have the use of their trapline. Several other Cree hunting territories were also affected by the fire and salvage operations of forestry companies. These hunting territories were affected by a forest fire in 2000.

The Paix des Braves Agreement says that when more than 40 per cent of a trapline is affected by logging or fire, then there will be no more logging permitted. In this case, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks asked the Crees to make an exception. The Ministry said insect

infestation would make the wood unfit for the market so they should try to salvage it. The Cree forestry companies would be part of the team salvaging the wood and make a handsome profit while giving much-needed employment to Mistissini workers. The Mistissini Band and the tallymen in the affected areas would be a part of determining the salvage operation plan. It seemed like a win-win situation.

A Grand Council/CRA report on Fire #325's salvage operation paints a different picture; one where communications went awry and wood was illegally harvested and overcut. The report says documents promised to the Grand Council and Mistissini Band were slow in coming.

The Ministry "never provided the Crees with maps documenting how and where the salvage operation

was to be conducted," says the report.

The report alleges the Ministry failed to live up to the deal, resulting in "approximately 230,000 cubic metres of illegally harvested timber, with an estimated market value of \$16-17 million."

The report says this means approximately \$2.6 million or more in stumpage fees were never collected and the generous subsidies for clearing out the wood added to the profits made by Abitibi Consolidated and Chantier Chibougamau.

Fines levied under Quebec's Forest Act, if this turns out to be true and they are prosecuted and convicted, could be anywhere from \$11 to \$142 million. Section 174 of the Quebec Forest Act says cutting of wood outside of the prescribed area is punishable by a fine of \$4,000 to \$50,000 for each hectare

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what the Crees say the deal was

1. Only burned timber was to be salvaged.
2. Logging would occur in blocks no larger than 400 hectares.
3. In each cut block, 20 per cent of the burned timber stands would be left as residual seed stock to speed regeneration.
4. The standard 20 metre watercourse protective measures of the Forest Act would be applied.
5. Permanent access roads would not be allowed in the area of the burn and all salvage was to be done through winter roads.
6. Operations would occur only during the winter months of 2002-2003.
7. All infrastructure related to the operations (e.g., camps, machinery, etc.) would be removed upon completion.
8. All wood salvaged from the operation would be included as part of the forestry companies normal AAC as specified by the Forestry Act.

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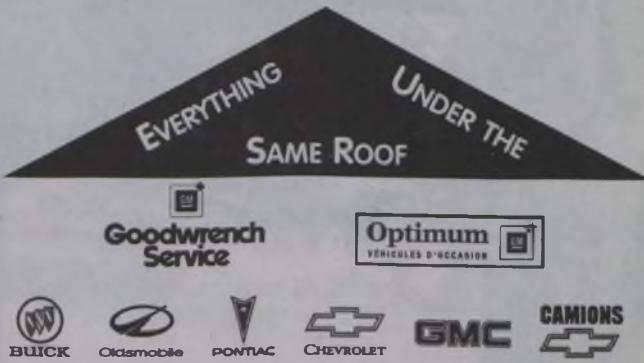
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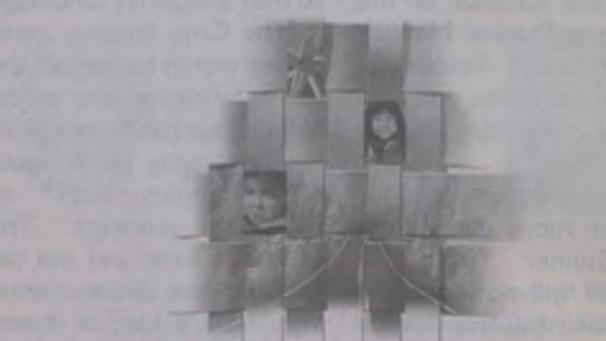
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cut. Section 95.32(2) of the same Act, designed for the James Bay area, gives fines of \$5 to \$450 per tree.

The report says the two forestry companies were supposed to leave 20 per cent residual timber stands as seed stock so the area would regenerate its forests. According to Arbex Forest Resource Consultants, a company hired by the Grand Council, Chantier de Chibougamau only left 14 per cent standing residual lumber while Abitibi Consolidated left 8 per cent.

Chantier de Chibougamau General Manager Michel Filon denied any wrongdoing by his company. "We did it the way we were told to do it. We followed the Ministry's rules. We weren't there to cut green wood," he told the Nation.

Filon also stressed that the Mistissini Band and tallymen were part of the planning process. "We worked

with Mistissini on where to put roads. We didn't do anything that wasn't planned or scheduled," he said. Filon

areas may have been cut but saying perhaps a ground fire affected the roots or just the bark making them appear as greenwood. Other areas that were unclassified by the Ministry were deemed unproductive, meaning they were bogs. "If they were unproductive," asked Bill Namagoose, Executive Director for the Grand Council, "why were they logged?"

Mistissini Chief John Longchap said not all of the specific requests made to the forestry companies were honoured. "We signed



CHIEFS ROBERT KITCHEN AND SAM BOSUM

added it was up to the Ministry and not the Crees to sue the company if there was any wrongdoing.

Abitibi Consolidated did not return phone calls by press time.

The Ministry sent the Grand Council a summary of their own report acknowledging that green

the Paix des braves, a new relationship agreement with Quebec," said Longchap. "The Ministry's attitude was the total opposite of the spirit and intent of the Agreement. They ignored our good faith."

Longchap said the Ministry hasn't addressed Cree concerns and issues. "We have had continuous problems with forestry companies and the Ministry," he said.

The Mistissini Band's forestry company, Eenatuk, also lost out, never seeing any part of the deals come their way. The Ministry did offer them an area they said contained approximately 70,000 cubic metres, but when Mistissini investigated it they estimat-

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What the Crees say will rebuild the trust

1. Apply the full extent of the law to those forestry companies that allegedly broke it, with fines substantial enough to reflect the seriousness of the offence.
2. Restore the affected traplines through a regenerative silviculture program.
3. Protect, at a minimum, the portion of the fire-ravaged lands as part of the Otish Mountains-Alban-Temiscamie Park.
4. Recover the costs that the Crees have incurred in working on this issue.

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ed there was only 25,000 cubic metres, making the allocation unprofitable. A further attempt to do a co-venture with Barette Chapais failed, leaving the Cree company out in the cold. Eenatuk estimate their losses associated with the salvage operations to be \$186,000.

The Grand Council wants the burn area to be added to a plan for a park near the Otish Mountain, to protect it forever. If this happens it could be the second largest park in Canada.



MISTISSINI CHIEF JOHN LONGCHAP

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KHAYDEN CELEBRATES THIRD BIRTHDAY IN STYLE

By Steve Bonspiel

It's not often that a three-year-old gets 100 people out to his birthday party. But when your name is Khayden Otter-Rupert and just making another birthday is an inspiration, people pay attention.

The turnout at the party at Hotel du Fort in Montreal May 23 was more than expected, admitted Khayden's grandfather, Ronnie Otter. "It was very good; we didn't know there would be that many people," Otter said. "He passed another milestone with his birthday."

Khayden has been fighting an uphill battle to resume his life.

On February 8, Khayden was found unconscious in his foster parents' home in Waswanipi. He was rushed to the hospital and has not been home since.

Trevor Eric Spencer, who was living with Khayden's stepmother, was charged with aggravated assault. He is being held in Amos pending trial and a psychiatric evaluation.

The resulting emotional and financial support the family has received from all nine Cree communities has helped the family tremendously, and has brought the people of Eeyou Istchee together in a time of need.

The celebration started off with some words from Ronnie and a prayer from a Cree elder. Those who attended couldn't wait to dig into the geese supplied by families who had a successful goose break.

Ronnie wanted to thank the Happyjack family who helped in a big way by cooking many of the 22 geese. He said they wouldn't have been able to make the deadline without their help.

The last few weeks have been hard on the Otter and Rupert families. On May 12, Khayden's skull was reattached. This represented a key part in his rehabilitation. Once his head is strong enough, he'll be able to recover much quicker.



A few days after the surgery, the family noticed that Khayden had become lighter. He was losing weight because he couldn't eat without vomiting. He had also stopped physiotherapy due to the fragile state of his skull.

As he recovers he's becoming more inquisitive and curious. His mother Judy said that he's always asking questions and wondering who people are. "He didn't stop talking about his birthday party," she said.

He was especially excited because this was one of the few times in the past three months that he's been able to leave the Montreal Children's Hospital

As he built up his strength, Khayden went a little bit further away from the hospital. On May 29 he traveled to the powwow in Ottawa with his mother. Donations were made to aid the family and a ceremonial healing circle was performed in Khayden's honour. All seemed to be going well.

Up until that point he had been able to digest soft foods like porridge without throwing up, but at the powwow, that changed. His appetite was non-existent and when he did eat he would vomit.

Upon arrival at the Children's Hospital, Khayden was immediately fed intravenously. He also underwent x-rays that revealed a large amount of fluids in his head. A tube was inserted to drain the liquid.

Khayden is slated to leave the Children's June 7. From there, he'll be transferred to Marie Enfant rehabilitation centre for children in the east end of Montreal.



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continued from page 9

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Painting, does that ring a bell? Have a close look at the wall of frames. Moose, birds, hills and thrills. What's an abstract painting doing next to a most recognizable scene? Maybe it's the way

tomorrow's leaders saw the world when they set up the art show. A huge rose and some Navaho inspired representation go hand in hand with the damsel with swan eyes showing in the window of Nemaska Recreation Hall.

Prints in plaster of Paris will be served to accompany your journey. Oh! Look at that, can you see the hand? I think I see a rabbit and some fish. Did you know that glue and paper can melt into such beautiful things? Neat stuff that goose, good stuff that's neat!

Once again, thank you for flying with us on this last week of May, and have a pleasant and safe stay.

François Babin,
ÉLMS Art teacher

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY LAKITUSAKI - A TIME CAPSULE

by Xavier Kataquapit

It is 1988 and I am sitting in an old two-story cabin on a high bank of the Lakitusaki River. I am taking part in this year's spring goose hunt, 200 kilometers north of the Attawapiskat River, with my dad Marius, my brothers and an Elder, Abraham Paulmartin, my mother's uncle. Abraham spends a lot of his time on the Lakitusaki River following a traditional way of life. The old building I call home for a few days gives him shelter for many months out of the year.

I am sitting alone in the late afternoon. Everyone has gone out on the land to fetch wood to restock our pile for the rest of our stay. I have volunteered to stay behind and watch the camp. The greyed wooden shack that Abraham lives in is one of several old structures that mark this location on the Lakitusaki River. This place was once a trading post and home to many people who lived the traditional nomadic lifestyle of the Mushkego Cree of James Bay. A short distance to the east of Abraham's home is a small old Roman Catholic Church complete with a steeple that once held an iron bell. The walls and ceiling are intact complete with the original paint and decorative lining and trims. The floor is a rough wooden base of wide boards and there is still a raised stage area where the priest once performed the service. However, the church has been damaged here and there by hunters and travellers who have scavenged boards or nails over the years for repairs on sleds or other shelters.

To the west is a large building that was once the Hudson's Bay trading post. A faded old sign in front of the building bears the marking of the company name against a backdrop of peeling white paint. The large store front pane windows are amazingly still intact and unbroken. There are two floors and the building comes complete with a chimney, which allows for a traveller to easily install a wood stove for an overnight stay.

A single distinctive trail runs parallel to the river from the east past the church and then in front of Abraham's home and on to the Hudson's Bay store to the west. Several remains of old homes and shelters line the historic trail for a kilometer along a clearing on the top of a high bank of the river.

I watch the opposite bank from a higher rise of land through an old pane glass window. It is dark in Abraham's home with much old greying wood for walls and ceiling. There is only candle light and a soft glow

from the metal stove's ventilation hole and numerous cracks. In the quiet early evening, I imagine what this place was like half a century ago.

On a warm spring day, the store would have come to life with traditional Cree families wandering in and out of the prominent white building. The company store would be filled with shelves of basic foods such as flour, sugar, lard and tea. Valued metal items were stocked such as knives, axes and some tools and firearms. Towards the back, trappers showed their furs to barter and trade with the company staff.

In those days, a few additional buildings housed the store staff and Catholic missionaries. Wigwams, prospectors' tents and small wooden shacks provided a temporary home for the Cree families that roamed the land along the Lakitusaki River following a traditional lifestyle of hunting, trapping and fishing. Smoke from numerous fires would have dotted the horizon. Some of these fires would have been used to smoke the river's catch of the day. The settlement would have been alive with many children running here and there searching for friends or visiting relatives. Elders would have met up in groups on the grass basking in the warm sun and looking out over the river and a shore lined with several freighter canoes. The smell of smoked fish and goose filled the air and mixed with a fresh spring scent of budding trees and plant life.

In the evening, the church bell would have rung out to signal the evening mass and individuals and family groups heeded the call in a slow procession to attend the daily service. As people took their places, the daily prayers started with the murmur of men and women performing the prayers of the rosary in Cree. From time to time the flock would have joined in singing ancient Latin catholic hymns in the Cree language.

I am drawn back to my place inside Abraham's home. It is getting late in the day and the sun is shining an orange light over the land. I can hear snow machines making their way back with a sound that tells me they are pulling heavy loads of logs. The greetings are fast and loud and laughter fills the fresh air as I run to meet my brothers, dad and Abraham. I can almost sense the happy spirits of so many of the people from so long ago as we head back up to the old house and a warm fire with hunger in our bellies.

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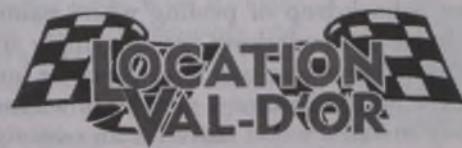
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100 – BIRTHS

We would all like to say Congratulations to our brother Jason Grondin and his girlfriend Kathy Charette on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Aylee Cynthia Charette – Grondin born on May 23rd, 2004 at 10:16 am. Always remember that your precious baby girl is a blessing and a gift from God and that he has put this child in your hands to guide, nurture and love her throughout all her life. We are so proud and love you all so very much. From all the Family from Waswanipi, Val d'Or & MTL xoxoxo

We are Happy and Excited for our friend Theresa McLeod for giving birth to a baby girl named KAYDENCE CLARA ANN McLEOD weight 7 lbs 6 oz, born on April 19/ 2004. Time 4:33 am, Halifax, Nova Scotia. We're sure she's a precious and bundle of joy to you! Take care of your 1'1! From your buddies in Waskaganish. xoxo

101 – BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings going out to a young lady in waskaganish, who's birthday was on may 3rd. MIRIAM MOAR. Take care of yourself and hope you know what you mean to me, though we don't always talk, I think about you. Again Happy belated birthday. With love Barbs (wask)

I want to wish Happy belated birthday to the following people in waskaganish, My sister in law MABEL HESTER (may 11), to my nieces KAYLEE (may 15) & ELLANIE (may 18), TIFFANY (May 19) HESTER, To my niece BECKY (may 21), ANNALISA (may 26) Jacob. Hope you had all you wished for and hope you guys had fun on ur birthdays. Take care of yourselves and love ya guys. with love Barbs (wask)

Special greetings going out to two of my friends in waskaganish. SUZANNE ERLESS (may 26) and to FRANCINE WEISTCHE (may 30) I just wanted to wish you both happy birthday and that I love you both. We've been friends for so long, I know there have been times when we've lost touch or drifted apart for a while, but sooner or later, our paths always seem to lead back to each other. I'm glad we'll always be friends. with love in friendship Barbs (wask)

Happy birthday to two of my brothers ROGER HESTER (may 13) and to JIM HESTER (may 25) though I hardly talk to you I love you, I want you both to know I love you both and you mean the world to me. I'm glad that you are apart of my life. with love your sis Barbs (wask)

Happy 5th Birthday to Marcus Lameboy on June 3 and many more to come, With Love Alexander and Harry'sh

Happy 17th Birthday to my friend Alice Salt from Chisasibi who had her birthday on May 15...Hope you had a blast on your b-day girl!!!...and wish many more to come Take Care my friend From a friend...you might know me...cause i seeing you everyday...but i wasn't there on your birthday but you was on my mind all day...heh..lol...wondered what you up too

right now....but how's your goose break??...hope it was fun heh!!!....well..cya around BUDDY!

I just wanted to say a Big Hello to a someone from Waskaganish...he might know who he is..it's been 2 months now that I don't talked to you...Where are you??...I wonder that you been doing fine all these days...I'm always trying to call you...but I'm scared that you won't talked to me, and I'm sorry what I did these past years...you know that I Love you and I miss you so much...it's hard letting you go...I can't let go...I'll try to come down to your town someday or soon...maybe this summer...to start all over again...I've been thinking about you all these days...from a girl you might know me cause you've know me a long time now....P.S. Take Care of yourself

We wanted to wish a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our one and only Paul Fireman(our b/f) on June 19-04 Hope you had a blast on your birthday!!!...have fun and Enjoy your day every minute of it...WE LOVE YOU PAUL!!!!...Don't drink on your birthday even a shot!!!...From your 2 bugger's girlfriends....you might know who we are!!....GUESS??.....hahaha.c-ya around!!TAKE CARE BUDDY!!and Have fun!!

Happy 2nd birthday to our baby girl, Sweet Susannah on May 31st. Wishing you a wonderful birthday on your special day. You are true blessing in our lives. Thank you for being the sweet, little, big you. Love Mom, Dad, Sheq & Alex

Happy Belated Birthday to my friend Miss Diane .G on April 23 and of course to my cuz Miss Sarah Atchynita wishing you both all the best in your lives and many wonderful birthdays to come. With love Rachel

We want to wish our aunt June-Ashley Moar a Happy Birthday and many more to come. Her birthday will be on June 18. Give us some big pieces of your cake, ok! We will TRY not to drive you crazy on your birthday. Thank you for babysitting us when mommy needs a sitter. Behave on your special day, don't give grandma and grandpa a hard time. Love always your little nephews Franklin Moar and Payton Rupert. P.S. Mommy says Happy Birthday too.

We would like to say a Happy Birthday to Terrence Ottereyes, on May 25th, 2004 in Mistissini. Terrence I hope you had fun on your birthday. Once again Happy Birthday.

And to my brother Josie Matoush Happy Birthday On May 26th, 2004.in Mistissini Hope you had fun on your birthday Josie, I hope you had your holiday on your birthday. Once Again Happy Birthday brother From: S.M.,E.S & C.M.S (in Wemindji)

We would like to wish a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to a very handsome guy whose from Chisasibi, Simon Tapiatic on June 3.Hope you enjoyed your b-day and wish you many more to come. we miss you so much while you're where ever you are right now...lol...from a secret admirer ...from out of spaces....lol...:DJK...Can't wait to

see you around again!!..bye now!!(K)(K)

A Birthday greeting going out to my buddie ol' pal Miss Box Geo on June 17. I'd give you a present but I'm too cheap and I won't even make you a card because I'm running low on paper.lol..jk. I'd say let's Party!!! but we'll do that next year...okie dokie?? So if you get a cake I want you to save me a piece and I'll eat it when I get back...lol...nevermind I might be out there longer then I expect. Lots of Love but no kisses(got garlic breathe right now)...haha nii Chub Chubs E'larol

I would like to say a birthday 18th birthday to my friend Paul Fireman on June 19-2004 have fun on your birthday Paul....and don't drink too much neh just kidding lol from you friend from chisasi Alice

Happy 2nd Birthday to Trey Turner in Thunder Bay from Mom, Dad, Jordan, Jake, Jaimee, Alexandria. Also from Grandpa Turner, Uncle Ian, John, Kaylynn, Vanessa and the rest of the Turner family in Moose Factory. Hope your day is full of surprises.

Happy 8th Birthday wishes to our son, Ryan Happyjack on June 5, 2004. You're just about done with gr. 2 at Willingdon, and soon you'll be in gr. 3. It doesn't seem that long ago when we first held you in our arms. We miss the baby boy you once were, but are proud of the big boy you've become! Love Always, Mom & Dad.

Happy 8th Birthday to our big brother,

Ryan Happyjack! We love you very much. Hugs & Kisses, your 3 little sisters.

On june 1st 2001 you were born, We had named you Neebeesh Mariam House-Cox. God had given us someone to love and cherish forever. Thank you for being born and thank you for being the wonderful little girl that you are. We will love you always and forever...luv mom and dad

Wishing Roger Sealhunter (bugger) a Happy Birthday on June 1st 2004. I guess this means there won't be enough cake for any of us nah....lol. Have a happy birthday with love aoug'sh....lol....and a Happy Birthday to my second bugger Charlie Tapiatic on June 12 2004. I still remember what the two of you got me for Christmas back then....lol anyways enjoy your birthday guys wub Maglit

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Roger Sealhunter on June 1st, Charlie Tapiatic on June 12, Granny/Greatgranny Minnie on June 21 2004 and also to Reginald House on June 21. wishing you all the best on your day. and many more to come love always Margaret and Neebeesh

Happy Birthday to my brother, John and sister Minnie in June! Hope you both have wonderful days, cause you certainly deserve it. We love you both so much. Nellie & Katie. Xoxox

To my beautiful mom, when I look at you, I see honesty, integrity, patience, humbleness, your love for God. You are a women with so much wisdom and with a



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great sense of humor. Thank you for always being their for me and my girl. Appreciating you is something I need to do more often, this is one way to tell you how much you mean to me. Happy birthday mom, as Katie puts it, mamma, on June 29, 2004, we love you so much! Nellie and Katie.

I would like to wish a Happy 3rd Birthday to my special miracle angle Khayden Otter-Rupert on May 24, 2004. May all your wishes come true and many birthdays to come. We miss you very much and can't wait to see you back home here in Waswanipi. Take care little guy and may Gods angles be with you at all times. See ya soon. From Aunty Leonda, Mike, Kayla and Little brother Harry and little sister Keana Otter.

300 - PERSONALS

If That Isn't Love

I have these feelings, deep inside
Feelings that I have hide
I don't know if he feels the same way
And I don't know what to do
When he comes around I feel so right
I yearn just to feel his touch
And when I left, I miss him so
For now I'll love him from afar
One day I'll express how special he is
So until then I will retain my feelings'
And until then, I'll contain my love
I hope that you know in your heart, it is !!

We would like to congratulate my nephew Henri-Jo Baribeau for killing his 1st goose on May 8, 2004. Even though we are not able to spend goose-break with you. We still thought about you everyday and I know that you had fun in the bush. LOV YAH!!!!!! Love Always, Stephanie, Frances and grandma Eva XOXOXOXOXOXOX We are so proud of you!!!!

I would like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all my friends; Janice, Mary, Anita, Linda, Evelyn, Minnie, Cathy, Nathalie, Beatrice, Laurie-Ann, Elizabeth, Jennifer, and to all that I forgot to mention...HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY YOU ALL.....YOU GALS DO A GOOD JOB IN RAISING YOUR CHILDREN AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK....CAUSE A MOM'S JOB IS NEVER ENDING IT'S A LIFE TIME...SO ONCE AGAIN HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!!!!

Students Looking for a reliable babysitter in September 2004 "couples or single women above age 16 and up" in Sudbury Ont. If interested Call at (819) 753-2936 or leave a message, thanks bye!

Hockey season and Goose break is over, and now time for the summer, and so we

the Ouje-Bougoumou Hackers would very much like to thank a few people and sponsors for this past winter. First of all, our community for their support throughout the whole year, our friends, relatives (Mistissini as well) and parents for their support and encouragements. A big Thank you to these organizations, Ouje-Bougoumou Eenuch Association, Abel & Sophie Bosum, Sam R. Bosum, Nuuchirmi Winnu (David & Anna Bosum), Barrette Chapais, Nordex (Yves Potvin), Restaurant La Brassette, Bar Cabaret, Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou Youth Council, BOC/CRA Board of Directors (You know who you are), Ted Moses, Gordon Bosum, James Neeposh and ORSA, Winnie Bosum (for paying the balance of the new sweaters) without these people, there would be no Hackers. I would personally like to aknowledge the hard work from Clara Bosum, she did a lot for the team, great work Clara. A million thanx to the players and coaching staff, Sam and Johnny Bosum...too bad junior, there ain't no Coach of the year award..... Last but not least, thanks to all the people that cheered for us throughout the whole year, see you in November. One more thing, thanks Johnny Cooper, Glenn Wadden, Norman E Neeposh, Antoine Otter for your services this year and our sniper all year long, Richard Ottereyes. From Joshua Bosum and the Ouje-Bougoumou Hackers.

300 - MISC

Apartment to sublet. 4 1/2, Available August 1, 2004. Water included, elevator. laundry room on same floor. Near shopping mall and buses. Easy access to highways 20 & 13. Quiet neighbourhood. For further information call: 819-855-3080 or 514-219-5734 Address: 560, 33rd Avenue, apt 406. Lachine, QC H8T 1Y8.

Retired! Watchya, We will be retiring from teaching at the end of June 2004. We will have completed twenty four years of service with the Cree School Board (1980 - 2004). All good things must come to an end n'est-ce pas? To all the children who were our students : a million thanks! To all the parents of these youths : meequetch! To all our colleagues : merci - thanks! To all the administrators : thanks - merci! To all the other personnel in the school : meequetch! To our employer, the Cree School Board : thank you! To all the population of Chisasibi and Waswanipi : meequetch! For all these wonderful years with you in the North : Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Let us simply say Aurevoir!!! Until we meet again. Laurette et Marcel Bessette

À la retraite! (Retired) Watchya, Nous prendrons notre retraite de l'enseignement à la fin de juin 2004. Nous aurons alors complété 24 ans à l'emploi de la Commission Scolaire Crie (1980 - 2004). Toute bonne chose a une fin n'est-ce pas? À tous les jeunes qui furent nos élèves : mille mercis! À tous les parents de ces jeunes : meequetch! À tous nos collègues de travail : merci - thanks! À toutes les

personnes de l'administration : thanks - merci! À toutes les autres personnes de l'école : meequetch! À notre employeur, la Commission Scolaire Crie : merci! Aux gens de Chisasibi et de Waswanipi : meequetch! Pour toutes ces belles années passées avec vous dans le Nord : merci de fond du Coeur! Disons nous tout simplement AU REVOIR!!! Au plaisir de se revoir, Laurette et Marcel Bessette

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Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of the Nation will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.



Southwestern Grilled Pork Tenderloin

2 whole pork tenderloins
(1 1/2 lbs total)
5 teaspoons chili powder
1 1/2 teaspoons oregano
3/4 teaspoon ground cumin
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 tablespoon vegetable oil

682 g
25 ml
32 ml
3 ml

Remove all traces of fat from pork tenderloins and set aside. In a small bowl, mix together chili powder, oregano, cumin, cloves and vegetable oil. Rub the mixture over every side of the tenderloins. Cover and refrigerate for 2 to 24 hours. Grill over medium-hot fire, turning occasionally, for 15 to 20 minutes, until meat thermometer inserted reads 155 to 160 degrees F. Slice and serve. Makes 6 servings.

TIPS: Pork can be replaced with moose, caribou or deer. Adjust cooking times to compensate.

Nutrient Analysis per Serving:

Calories: 170, Protein: 24 g, Sodium: 80 mg,
Cholesterol: 75 mg, Fat: 7 g, Carbohydrates: 3 g



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*Je suis fière
de mes origines.*



*J'ai un passé à honorer
et un avenir à bâtir.*



J'ai mes idées.

*Je peux faire
un geste qui compte.*

Je suis Autochtone et j'ai choisi d'exercer mon droit de vote à l'élection fédérale.

Pour savoir si mon nom est sur la liste électorale
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Elections Canada

I am proud of
where I come from.



I have a past to honour
and a future to
nurture.

I have a point of view.



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to make a difference.

As an Aboriginal, I have chosen to exercise
my right to vote in the federal election.

To know if I am registered to vote
and what to do if I am not going to be here on election day,
I just need to contact Elections Canada. It's that easy!

I can vote!

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Oujé-Bougoumou: June 24th - 25th, 2004 - Contact: Allan Gull

Mistissini: June 26th - 28th, 2004 - Contact: Matthew Gunner

Waskaganish: June 30th - July 1st, 2004 - Contact: Ernest Blueboy

What is spaying and neutering?

- Spaying and neutering prevents male dogs from breeding and female dogs from producing puppies. They are methods of providing birth control for dogs by removing their reproductive organs, preventing them from having litters of puppies.
- Spaying is the procedure used for female dogs, while neutering refers to the procedure used for male dogs.

Spaying or neutering is good for your dog

- Spaying and neutering helps your dog live a longer, healthier life by reducing or eliminating many health problems that can be difficult to treat.
- Spaying and neutering make your dog a better companion and can make them less likely to bite.
- Spaying your female dog eliminates her heat cycle. Females in heat can cry incessantly, show nervous behaviour and attract unwanted male dogs.
- Neutering your male dog makes them less likely to roam the neighbourhood, run away or get into fights.

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